

**Maryland State Board of Victim Services Meeting**  
**Staffed by the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services**  
**Wednesday, October 27, 2021**  
**10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Participating Members:**

Steve Kelly, Esq., Chair  
Heather Amador for V. Glenn Fueston, Jr.  
Anne Bean  
Anne Colt Leitess, Esq.  
Jessica Dickerson for Secretary Sam Abed  
Lou Gieszl  
Laurie Kimbles for Sheriff Gary Hofmann  
Molly Knipe  
Adam Lippe, Esq.  
Joe Riley, Esq.  
Jill Ritter  
Alonzo Robertson, Esq.  
Lisa Smith, Esq.  
Lisa Spicknall-Horner  
Jeanne Yeager

**Guests:**

Katie Cashman, No More Stolen Childhoods  
Karen Darby, Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services  
Stephanie Erdice, Maryland Coalition Against Sexual Assault  
Fia Shah, Ayuda  
Melanie Shapiro, Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence

**Governor's Office of Crime Prevention Youth, and Victim Services Staff:**

Rebecca Allyn, David Blum, and Erica Hiner

**I. Introductions and Roll Call**

The meeting was called to order at 10:01 a.m. Ms. Allyn conducted a roll call and guests introduced themselves.

Ms. Allyn informed members that the Board's Vice-Chair, Barbara Bond has retired. The Office will work with the Appointments Office to fill the Vice-Chair vacancy, as well as the Office of the Attorney General representative vacancy, and the Department of Human Services vacancy.

**II. Consent Agenda**

The consent agenda contained the July 2021 Board meeting minutes, the 2021 Board Annual Report, and grant updates from the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services.

- *Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services Grant Updates:* Ms. Allyn shared with members that continuation funding was provided for Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) subrecipients, continuation funding will be provided for Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) subrecipients, and the Office is continuing to look for ways to fill the VOCA funding deficiencies. The Office is currently reviewing applications for Edward J. Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (BJAG) and the Children's Justice Act Committee (CJAC) Grant. Award letters are anticipated to be sent out early November. Notice of Funding Availability's (NOFAs) for the Performance Incentive Grant Fund (PIGF) and State Aid for Police Protection Fund (SAPP) have been posted. Applications are due on November 22. The Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Fund (CESF) ends 12/31/21 and an extension request has been submitted to the federal monitor. The Office is working through how the ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) funds will be administered for victim services following the Governor's announcement on 10/15. Once the Office has more information, it will be shared with providers. Ms. Allyn thanked members and subrecipients for their patience as the Office works through this award season that has come with many changes and delays from both the state and our federal funders.

Mrs. Spicknall-Horner made a motion to approve the consent agenda; Mr. Robertson seconded the motion. All members were in favor and the consent agenda was approved.

### **III. Presentation: Victim Services Interpreter Bank**

Ms. Shah is the Senior Language Access Coordinator for Ayuda, and provided members and guests with a presentation on the [Victim Services Interpreter Bank](#). The Victim Services Interpreter Bank launched in 2018 and is part of Ayuda's Language Access Service Program. The Victim Services Interpreter Bank provides interpretation, telephonic interpretation and document translation services to victim services providers.

### **IV. Updates**

- *2022 Crime Victims' Rights Week*  
The 32nd Memorial Services for Crime Victims and Their Families will be hosted by the Harford, Prince George's, Washington, and Worcester County State's Attorneys' Offices on Sunday, April 24, 2022.

The 2022 Maryland Crime Victims' Rights Conference will be held during National Crime Victims' Rights Week, April 24-30, 2022. Ms. Allyn presented members with a list of proposed topics for the conference, provided by the 2021 conference evaluation. Members were identified to assist further with conference planning.

- *Crime Victims' Rights Brochures and Forms*  
Ms. Allyn has submitted authorizations request to translate the victims' rights brochures into Chinese, Korean and French, which will be housed on the Office's website.
- *2022 Priorities*  
The 2021 Annual Report identified the following priorities:

- Develop an updated outcome-based strategic plan for victims of crime, to include: meaningful metrics for providers, priority areas for funding, and strategies to address the victim services response to COVID-19
  - Establishing collaborative projects
- Enhancing relationships with, and supporting, law enforcement, statewide coalitions, and state's attorney's offices
- Address underserved crime victims through outreach, training, and the encouragement of state and local agency collaboration

Members were identified to participate in a subcommittee to further discuss these priorities.

## **V. Old/New Business**

Mr. Robertson shared information on the Maryland Crime Victims' Resource Center's Annual Ceremony of Remembrance, which will be held on October 30. Ms. Robertson will provide more information on the ceremony to Ms. Allyn to email to all members. Mr. Robertson also shared that the rule change that allowed the Maryland Electronic Courts (MDEC) to change the status of victims' attorneys to victim advocates, was reversed.

Ms. Erdice shared that the Maryland Coalition Against Sexual Assault's [Women of Color Network Conference](#) will be held in November.

Joe Riley shared several bills that the Maryland State's Attorneys' Association is considering:

- A bill to remove spousal privilege in domestic violence cases
- A bill for the State to cover domestic violence/strangulation exams as they do for sexual assault exams

Ms. Yeager mentioned sharing the bill language with the Governor's Family Violence Council and the Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence.

## **VI. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:30 a.m.

### **NEXT MEETING:**

Wednesday, January 26, 2022

Meeting ID: [meet.google.com/noo-fsbu-zym](https://meet.google.com/noo-fsbu-zym)

Phone Number: 1 774-993-4431

PIN: 578 403 911#